



GULF DEFENDER



Vol. 64, No. 17

Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. *Gulf Defender*

April 29, 2005

In brief

Gulf Defender survey

The 325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office strives to provide Team Tyndall with current, relevant information readers can trust about Tyndall issues, events and people, and we're always looking to improve.

Our editors would like to know what you think would make the *Gulf Defender* better!

Beginning May 1, the Public Affairs office will launch a survey to find out what you read and why; how the paper could improve; and what is important to you as a reader.

If you don't read the paper, please let us know why in the comments section. The survey will run through May 30.

To make the survey as simple as possible, it is available online at www.afnews.af.mil/inter-na1/survey/survey_index.htm.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Gulf Defender editorial staff at 283-4500.

Thank you in advance for your participation in making the Gulf Defender a better product!

The ORI is coming ...



... 51 days and counting



Lisa Norman

Brig. Gen. Jack Egginton prepares to exit the cockpit of the Tyndall's newest F/A-22 Raptor, while Staff Sgt. William Garrick assists.

CAPT. SUSAN A. ROMANO

325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Just four short years ago, Tyndall's flightline consisted solely of a fleet of F-15C Eagles, some F-4 drones and an occasional cadre of visiting fighters to the 53rd Weapons Evaluation Group.

Now, there are 20 F/A-22 Raptors gracing the 325th Fighter Wing's ramp (three are 'on loan' to other locations). The most recent F/A-22 arrived April 22, completing the planned Raptor inventory for the 43rd Fighter Squadron.

The 43rd FS' last Raptor's arrival was significant in more ways than one – the jet was ferried from the Lockheed Martin production plant in Marietta, Ga., by the

325th Fighter Wing Commander Brig. Gen. Jack Egginton. It marked the first time a general officer accepted and flew the airframe from the plant to its home base.

"It was an incredible thrill to get the keys to the Raptor that completes the inventory for the 43rd FS," said General Egginton. "I'm lucky enough to fly this plane, but to be a part of the history for Tyndall is an honor and a memory I'll savor for a lifetime."

The general was met by a crowd upon his return to the base, including his wife, Moe, his mother-in-law Maxine, his son Kevin, and many members of the Operations and Maintenance groups.

Tyndall's wing commander began

his qualification training in the Raptor in March, becoming a qualified Raptor pilot on April 11 following his successful completion of an Instrument check ride in the aircraft. Although he has flown the F-16 and F-15 in his career, his main airframe is now the F/A-22. Historically, fighter wing commanders must fly the primary airframe assigned to his/her respective wing; with Tyndall having two types of aircraft assigned, General Egginton is the senior leader assigned to the Raptor, while the wing's vice commander, Col. Brian Dickerson, is the senior leader assigned to the Eagle.

Over the past three years, pilots and maintainers have gradually built up the Raptor training program

based on the number of aircraft in the squadron. Understandably, it was a slow process to train those fixing the aircraft and those flying the aircraft when there were only a few on the line.

But now, with 23 Raptors permanently calling Tyndall home, there are fewer training hurdles to overcome and more airframes to overcome them with.

"We have a full compliment of aircraft now," said Col. James Van Antwerp, 325th Maintenance Group commander, "which makes it much easier to achieve the milestones established in our training syllabus. It also allows us to fully maximize the flying schedule with all the required jets in our inventory."

The Gulf Coast Salute will be May 14 and 15; call the Straight Talk Center for updates at (877) 529-5540

Real JAG dispels myths of military law practice

LT. COL. CAROL HUBBARD
Base Legal Office

When I was stationed at Misawa Air Base, Japan, 10 years ago, a captain arrived from the United States and declared that there was a new series about to air on network television. It was called “JAG.” I was plainly astonished and thought the captain was pulling a mean-spirited joke on those of us desperate for decent American entertainment.

Yet, the captain wasn’t joking as many now know; the “JAG” series eventually became a top-rated program. Although the show has been the object of derision or huffy contempt by some “real” judge advocate generals, it actually now serves as an informal recruiting tool for new accessions into the Air Force JAG Corps.

You may wonder: Is service in the “real” JAG Corps actually like the television show? This may shock you to learn, but in many ways it is not. Most Air Force JAGs don’t regularly walk

around the office in our Class A uniforms; we don’t frequently gun down terrorists staging attacks from Afghanistan; nor do we commonly use call signs, such as “Harm.” While these facts may dissuade less-adventuresome troops from considering the JAG Corps, read on and you may be surprised and delighted to learn the rest of the story.

At a typical base legal office, we have JAGs (who are officers and licensed attorneys), paralegals, civilian attorneys and legal assistants, such as court reporters, claims officers and notaries.

At Tyndall, for example, the Base Legal Office essentially functions as the installation’s law firm. Legal matters run the gamut from military justice, involuntary discharges, claims, environ-

mental, contracting, labor, ethics and juvenile misconduct, along with the one area most members are familiar with: Legal assistance.

When most people visit our office, they seek out help with wills, powers of attorney, notaries, domestic relations, real estate transactions and the like. The legal office also oversees the base income tax program, which is managed by our assistance claims officer and is run by a tremendous group of unit volunteer income tax advisors from across the base. This program pays real benefits for our personnel, as it recovered more than \$2.2 million in tax refunds and saved taxpayers more than \$192,000 in tax preparation fees last year. Luckily, all of our services are free of charge to eligible personnel.

Now, of course, the television show tends to focus on the more sensational aspects of JAG practice, such as criminal justice. Like the show, our JAGs serve as prosecutors trying military members accused of violating the Uniform Code of Military Justice. However, unlike the show, our JAGs don’t switch sides from day to day between the prosecution and defense functions. Moreover, the Air Force JAG defense function is administered by an entirely separate chain of command. The defense team is composed of a JAG and paralegal who work only for the client, not the installation commander. Believe me, they work very hard and take tremendous pride in what they do.

While we leave piloting fighter aircraft and dispensing terrorists to the pros, we love what we do. The next time you see the television show, remember this: The real members of the Air Force JAG Corps relish the ongoing challenge of serving our nation through the diversified practice of military law.

Military members make difference daily in Iraq

LT. COL. DAVID VAN DER VEER
34th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron commander

BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq — What happened on Jan. 30 in Iraq was nothing short of historic. More than two-thirds of the voting population ventured out, literally walking to the polls to cast their first free vote. For the first time in over 50 years the Iraqi people saw the opportunity to shape their country.

The sacrifices of the men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces created the environment to make the national elections and Iraq’s future a reality.

And now, here we are two months into our 120-day Aerospace Expeditionary Force 3/4 rotation. The 34th Fighter Squadron and 388th Aircraft Maintenance team are providing 24/7 airpower to ground forces engaged in day-to-day operations throughout the country of Iraq.

We’re a small part of a very large operation. Each

day, I am more and more impressed with the level of dedication I see among our Airmen.

The “can-do” attitudes, teamwork, and positive mentoring I see daily, from junior enlisted to senior officers, is inspiring. I see a group of individuals who are dedicated to getting the mission done right the first time.

And, knowing we are making a difference for Iraq is why we are driven to do what we do.

The other day at the dining facility I sat down with a young Army specialist. We did the normal “Hey, how are you” thing and I asked him what he did here.

This specialist is a heavy vehicle operator driving big rigs in convoys to move supplies throughout Iraq. He has a tremendously important job and there is nothing easy about what he is accomplishing on a daily basis.

I admired his enthusiasm about his role here in Iraq

“The ‘can do’ attitudes, teamwork, and positive mentoring I see daily, from junior enlisted to senior officers, is inspiring.”

LT. COL. DAVID VAN DER VEER
34th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron commander

and thanked him for his service. In return, he found out that I was the commander of the F-16 fighter squadron on base; he stopped eating, opened his eyes wide, and thanked me for the work our squadron is doing to keep him and his fellow soldiers safe. Talk about job satisfaction!

The pilots flying over Iraq see the fruits of their

● SEE IRAQ PAGE 3

Gulf Defender Editorial Staff

Brig. Gen. Jack Egginton	325th FW commander
Capt. Susan A. Romano	chief, 325th FW public affairs
1st Lt. Albert Bosco	chief, internal information
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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 325th Fighter Wing public affairs office. Photographs are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise noted.

The deadline for article submissions to the *Gulf Defender* is 4 p.m. Friday, prior to the week of publication unless otherwise noted. Articles must be typed and double-spaced, preferably on a 3.5-inch disc. Stories should be submitted directly to the public affairs office, Building 662, Room 129 or mailed to: 325 FW/PAI, 445 Suwannee Ave., Tyndall AFB, FL, 32403-5425 or e-mailed to editor@tyndall.af.mil. Public affairs staff members edit all material for accuracy, brevity, clarity, conformity to regulations and journalistic style. The delivery of the *Gulf Defender* to Tyndall base housing sections is provided by the *Panama City News Herald*.

For more information, or to advertise in the newspaper, call (850) 747-5000.

● **FROM IRAQ PAGE 2**

efforts daily. Successes range from putting precision weapons on target to simply providing overhead coverage for engaged troops on the ground.

The last thing the pilots hear before returning to base from the ground units is, “Thanks for being here for us and have a safe flight back.” Simple words from someone right in the thick of things. This is tangible to me, but what about others supporting AEF 3/4?

I had the pleasure of meeting an Air National Guard senior master sergeant whose unit is responsible for dismantling and refitting large convoy vehicles with heavy armor and protective glass.

His Airmen are from all over the world and work as a team for 12-hour shifts with one purpose in mind – preparing those vehicles to ensure our convoys can withstand any insurgent attacks.

Convoy teams stop by his unit frequently to personally thank these Airmen for saving their lives. Again, talk about job satisfaction!

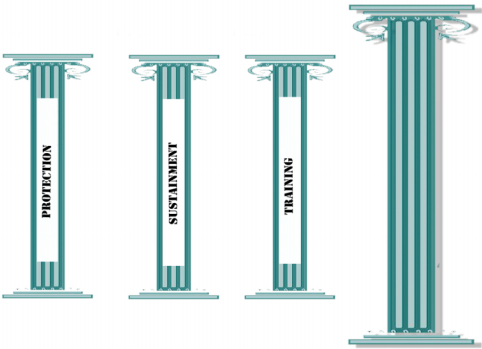
I witnessed the outstanding contributions from the dedicated men and women of the 388th Fighter Wing supporting Operation

Iraqi Freedom daily: The young crew chiefs and specialists taking pride in their work when that F-16 takes off down the runway or when the weapon functions as advertised; or the maintenance professional who volunteers his time and expertise

to help the Iraqi Air Force stand up a new squadron. The life support technicians responsible for each pilot’s survival gear and building new survival vests for the new Iraqi Air Force.

These are just a few of the many daily accomplishments. “One team, one fight” – you bet, and this is one team I am proud to be a part of. Job satisfaction at its best.

FORCE DEPLOYMENT



Action Line: More sidewalks

Q- I am concerned that there are too few sidewalks on base for people to get from one place to another when exercising. With the current climate of being fitness conscious, I think adding more sidewalks would help encourage people to get out and walk.

A- Thank you for your call and for bringing this to my attention. Although we currently do not have a sidewalk improvement plan for Tyndall, the 325th Civil Engineer Squadron’s Base Development Section is developing a plan to include validation of all existing sidewalk locations, as well as identification of locations for future sidewalks. Future sidewalks will be sited based on our current Tyndall 2030 Plan, which provides a road map to future Tyndall facilities and land use. We will identify and prioritize logical areas to install sidewalks and begin doing so as availability of funds allows. Thank you for bringing this to our attention.

ON THE STREET

What was your favorite deployment?



“Red Flag at Nellis AFB, Nev. It had good buffets, casinos and extra curricular activities.”

2ND LT. GARY AXELY
325th Air Control Squadron



“Cairo, Egypt, because of the country’s history and the view of the pyramids.”

MASTER SGT. ALBERTO BOYKIN
325th Medical Operations Squadron



“Australia, because of the different culture, great scenery and working with the Australian forces there.”

MASTER SGT. PATRICK MALLARD
95th Aircraft Maintenance Unit



“Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, because it was my first time riding on an actual ship, the USS Whimbey.”

TECH. SGT. XAVIERA MCFADDEN
325th Fighter Wing Safety

Action Line
Call 283-2255



BRIG. GEN. JACK EGGINTON
325th Fighter Wing commander

The Action Line is your direct line to me. It is one way to make Tyndall a better place to work and live.

The goal is to provide you with an accurate, timely response. You must leave your name, phone number or address to receive a response.

Questions or comments of general interest will be published in this forum. This avenue should only be used after coordinating problems or concerns with supervisors, commanders, first sergeants or facility managers.

If you’re not satisfied with the response or

you are unable to resolve the problem, call me at 283-2255.

For fraud, waste and abuse calls, you should talk to the 325th Fighter Wing Inspector General’s Office, 283-4646.

Calls concerning energy abuse should be referred to the energy hot line, 283-3995.

Below are more phone numbers that help you in resolving any issues with a base agency.

Commissary	283-4825
Pass and I.D.	283-4191
Medical and Dental	283-7515
MEO	283-2739

MPF	283-2276
SFS Desk Sgt.	283-2254
Services	283-2501
Legal	283-4681
Housing	283-2036
CDC	283-4747
Wing Safety	283-4231
Area Defense Counsel	283-2911
Finance	283-4117
Civil Engineer	283-4949
Civilian Personnel	283-3203
Base Information	283-1113

Thank you for helping me improve Tyndall and I look forward to hearing from you.

Dear Friends at Tyndall AFB:

On behalf of Special Olympics of Florida, I would like to give a heartfelt thank you to the fine men and women from the 325th Fighter Wing who helped make the 2005 Area 2 Special Olympics an exceptional and enjoyable time for the athletes and other volunteers.

The games were held this year in Panama City, and the athletes from Bay and Jackson counties had a wonderful time. They helped feed, encourage, comfort and sustain our amazing athletes, and they made this an event they will cherish for a lifetime. It was a ‘winning’ day for all the athletes!

Your members’ dedication to excellence and enthusiastic support are prime examples of what Team Tyndall and the Air Force represent. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Barbara Churchwell
Area 2 Special Olympics Coordinator

Congratulations to the
Officers’ Spouses’ Club
2005 scholarship winners

High school seniors:		Spouses:	
Chase Carter	\$1000	VanQuiece Smith	\$800
Megan Delaney	\$950	Nicole Muir	\$700
Taylor Cronk	\$900	Tammy Feldt	\$600
Kayla Chow	\$900	Charlene Ammons	\$600
Lauren Leptrone	\$850	Kathy Acree	\$500
Rachel Merrell	\$800	Angela Swartzberg	\$500
Amanda Grassi	\$750	Deborah English	\$500
Michael Stephens	\$750		
Ryan Kitchens	\$700		
Daniel Stangl	\$600		

Tyndall makes final preparations for Gulf Coast Salute

TECH. SGT. DAN NEELY
325th Fighter Wing public affairs

Just two short weeks and it's showtime! Tyndall Air Force Base Airmen are rolling up their sleeves in earnest as they make final preparations for this year's Gulf Coast Salute open house May 14-15.

Under the theme "*A Salute to North America*," the Home of Air Dominance will play host to tens of thousands of spectators from Bay County and beyond.

"For the past several months, our open house committee and many other folks across the base have put in countless hours to assemble one of Tyndall's most

dynamic and entertaining lineups ever," said Capt. Lendy Renegar, open house committee chairman.

Showcasing its theme, the base aims to dazzle its visitors with a binational cast of aviation thrillers headlined by the Canadian Forces "Snowbirds" aerial demonstration squadron, as well as two world-class parachute teams — the U.S. Army Golden Knights and the Canadian Forces SkyHawks.

"The Snowbirds will put nine jets up in the air, and having seen them several times before at other bases myself (he recently toured the U.S. and international air show circuit as an Air Force F-15C Eagle capabilities demo pilot), I know they'll excite our crowds with an incredible, breathtaking performance," Captain Renegar said.

"More importantly, we'll be proud to open our gates to our community neighbors to show them how well the men and women of their military are trained and equipped to defend our nation. We also



E.J. van Koningsveld

hope to give our recruiters a big boost in their efforts to attract our forces of tomorrow," he added.

In addition to the marquee aerial acts, this year's Gulf Coast Salute will feature a high-performance Eagle capabilities demo by the West Coast F-15 Demonstration Team, and another by the East

Coast T-6 Texan II Demonstration Team.

The home team will be well represented with flybys of Tyndall's own F/A-22 Raptor, F-15 Eagle and QF-4 Phantom II. Saturday, spectators will be treated to a B-2 Spirit stealth bomber flyby as well as



Courtesy Canadian SkyHawks

● SEE SHOW PAGE 21

Operation Reach Out helps Iraqi children

MASTER SGT. TERRY NELSON
407th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

TALLIL AIR BASE, Iraq — As the convoy moved across the desert, leaving dust bellowing behind, the men and women stayed focused on the mission and destination ahead, a small Bedouin camp, one of hundreds spread across Southern Iraq. Small, shoeless children with smiles adorning their faces ran to greet the trucks as they arrived.

The convoy rolled into the town carrying toys, shoes, clothing and other donated items from the United States for the villagers as part of Operation Reach Out.

For more than 15 years, the villagers have lived on the barren land that surrounds Tallil Air Base. These local Bedouin families are survivors and play an important role in base defense by providing security forces with information which could stop possible terrorist attacks to the base.

As the convoy came to a stop, Army and Air Force volunteers climbed aboard the trucks and handed down toys and candy for the children. Young children were lifted onto the back of the truck and fitted for shoes.

“I believe helping the Bedouins around the base is an awesome display of care from everyone involved,” said Master Sgt. Lavon Coles, 407th Expeditionary Logistics Squadron first sergeant. “We were able to spread a moment of joy which will probably have a lasting effect on their lives and the perceptions of who we are and what we represent.”

Operation Reach Out is an initiative managed by the 407th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron and sup-



Master Sgt. Mark Bucher

TALLIL AIR BASE, Iraq -- Staff Sgt. Erica Clark of the 407th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron and Senior Master Sgt. Robert Appling of the 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron talk with a young Bedouin girl as Sergeant Clark places a shoe on the child's foot. The sergeants were visiting local Bedouin villages as part of the Operation Reach Out program.

ported by the combined efforts members of the 407th Air Expeditionary Group. Throughout their stay, Airmen solicit and collect items from their neighbors, churches and friends back home to donate to the needy Bedouins here in Iraq.

“I think anything we can do to help the community is beneficial, not only now but for the next generations,” said Army 1st Lt. Damien Boffardi of the 484th Movement Control Battalion. “This allows the children to see we are there for them. Not only are we trying to create better living accommodations for them but also stop terrorism.”

In addition to bringing the military members closer to the locals, the program also brought Army and Air Force members closer together as well.

“Today we were able to provide more than just toys to children; it allowed two separate branches the opportunity to work together as a team with one goal in mind, making a child smile,” he added.

Lieutenant Boffardi said the Soldiers rarely have the opportunity to participate in a humanitarian mission, and he was happy the 70th Movement Control Team was able to take part by proving

● SEE GIFTS PAGE 21

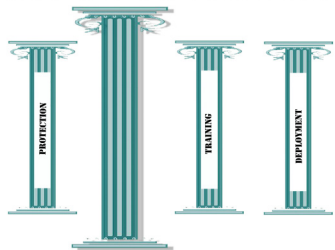
CRSC staff ready to give veterans money

TECH. SGT. JAMES BRABENEC
Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas - "Our task is to help eligible retirees qualify for tax-free CRSC compensation in addition to their retired pay and Veterans Affairs disability compensation."

Ms. Kathy Garfield shared those words following the Combat Related Special Compensation team's attendance at the Defense Department's World War II 60th anniversary commemoration ceremony in San Antonio April 3. Ms. Garfield, CRSC processing chief at the Air Force Personnel Center here, and five co-workers were out

FORCE SUSTAINMENT



spreading the word about the CRSC program.

CRSC allows some disabled military retirees, who served at least 20 years, are receiving military retired pay, and are receiving Veterans Administration disability compensation, to collect up to an additional \$2,500 in monthly, tax-free payments for some of their service-related disabilities. Following the ceremony, The Air Force team spoke with hundreds of veterans, which could generate a couple hundred new applications with the possibility to extend that number even further as the veterans carry the word to their friends.

"This event helped us network with other military service-related agencies to help us reach bigger audiences," said Mr. Barry Craigen, chief of the Air Force Combat Related Special Compensation Branch. Having met with representatives from the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the VA, CRSC personnel will likely attend those organizations' annual confer-

ences in Corpus Christi, Texas, in June.

"We're especially excited about speaking to veterans' service officers at the VA conference, because they are the people who speak directly with veterans in their home areas. They have established relationships with many of the people we are trying to reach, and we expect they will help communicate the special benefit the CRSC program offers," said Ms. Garfield.

WWII-related books, articles and uniforms, and letters from other CRSC-approved veterans helped draw veterans to their information kiosk. This memorabilia helped bridge between the familiar and unfamiliar.

"Most veterans I met at the ceremony were not aware of CRSC," said Ms. Ruth Relyea, a CRSC data entry and customer service specialist. "I spoke with the widow of a World War II veteran. She was still grieving the loss of her husband who passed away in 1998. She said she would share the CRSC in-

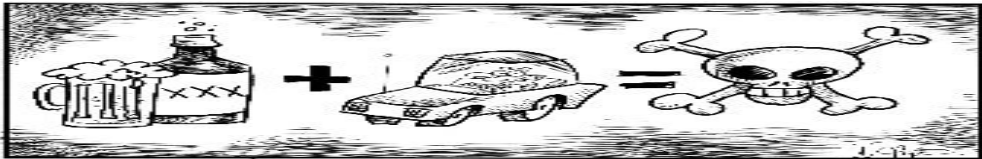
formation with her friends. I really hope what we provided will help them."

Having processed more than 15,000 applications, the CRSC staff has only scratched the surface of an estimated 200,000-member retired Air Force population that has a 10-percent or greater VA disability rating. In addition to this large customer base, the staff also assists people from other U.S. services with the same level of concern and customer service.

Working as an adjudication specialist, Ms. Lisa Schlichtig, helps determine which applicants are approved to receive CRSC. Recently, she handled an inquiry from a retired Navy veteran battling cancer due to Agent Orange exposure. The case is somewhat unusual due to the veteran having fought cancer for more than 15 years – far beyond the five-year life expectancy his doctor gave him in 1989.

The gentleman expressed concerns

● SEE MONEY PAGE 21



Tips to get in shape – no gym required

2ND LT. DAVID S. DAWSON
325th Civil Engineer Squadron

Ah, the carefree days of summer. As summer gets closer, perhaps you are thinking about swimming, or the beach, or even a nice summer vacation.

Perhaps you are thinking of those things, but more likely than not, your attention is focused like a laser beam on the upcoming Operational Readiness Inspection.

Hopefully, everyone is anxiously engaged in ORI preparations, and now is the right time to make sure your area is functioning and well-maintained. From the civil engineering perspective, that means work requests, and lots of them. It also means ensuring the base is fire safe, as well as environmentally sound. CE is here for you. The base population is our customer, and we will do everything in our power to help you, within the bounds of our admittedly limited resources.

Here are some work order guidelines to help you determine how to best get your area in tip-top shape while giving CE every opportunity to share the wealth with the entire base:

- Coordinate the work that needs to be done on your facility through your Facility Manager, including repairs, minor painting, having signs made, etc.
- If a job will require 50 man-hours or less, it will be directly scheduled work through the CE Service Call Desk. Most ORI jobs will be routine, which generally take 1-30 days to be completed, or perhaps longer if parts need to be ordered for the job.
- If a job is between 50-250 man-hours, it must be done through the FOCUS program next quarter (April-June) and only if there is a slot available for your group. FOCUS projects are prioritized by the group commander, and must be approved through your group FOCUS coordinator.
- If a job is more than 250 man-hours in scope, it

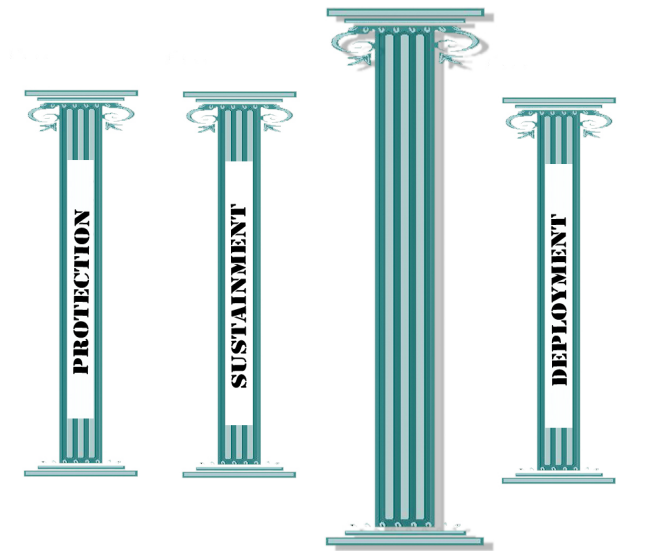
will need to be contracted and will have to join the 500 projects currently in the queue waiting for funding.

The FY06 contract project list has already been approved, so only projects that can be funded by the unit can be executed before the ORI. Even so, unit-funded projects will not be begun until June, because the contractor we use for quick execution cannot accept task orders until then.

However, CE does have separate contractors for routine projects: painting, roofing, paving, and water/sewer. Unit-funded projects of that scope can be begun within a few days of approval as a project.

- If you have capability to do the work yourself, make it a self-help project. There is funding available for materials upon approval, and contractors can give limited assistance if there is work beyond your ability (e.g., electrical, plumbing, air conditioning, etc.).
- As always, unit funding using any of the project completion vehicles above will expedite the project.

FORCE TRAINING



ORI TIP OF THE WEEK

Week 7:

Air Force members are authorized to carry one conservative cell phone, personal digital assistant or pager while in uniform. However, cell phones may not be used while walking in uniform and hands-free headsets are not authorized. Cell phones, PDAs and pagers must be clipped to the waistband or purse or carried in the left hand. Appropriate customs and courtesies should be rendered. If you must use a cell phone while in uniform, follow the rules and sit down or stand still.

Congratulations to Tyndall's Community College of the Air Force graduates

Air and Space Technology

SSgt Jason Barbour

Construction Technology

TSgt Jason Elftmann

Allied Health Services

MSgt Alberto Boykin

MSgt Elvira Simpson

SSgt Larry Cerbantec

Aviation Maintenance Technology

SMSgt Joseph Havens

MSgt John Bloom

TSgt Joel Little

TSgt Clete Toensing

SSgt Harry Ashcraft

SSgt Robert Bogie

SSgt Justin Edmonds

SSgt Ronald Foote

SSgt Fred Frazier

SSgt Donald King

SSgt Wayne Morris

SrA Caleb Nicholas

SSgt Drew Smith

SSgt Michael Taylor

Airway Science

MSgt Dimitri Parham

Criminal Justice

MSgt Jenetta Langston

SSgt Brian Meadows

SrA Marc Llafet

Aircraft Armament Systems Technology

SSgt Jason Lewis

SSgt Leon White

Contracts Management

MSgt Jenetta Langston

Munitions Systems Technology

MSgt William Johnson

SrA Billy Pollard

Maintenance Production Management

MSgt Terry Brown

Paralegal

MSgt Barbara Terry

Human Resource Management

TSgt Eric Evans

TSgt Rhonda McMichael

SSgt Tamika Mills

SrA Crystal Cronley

Information Systems Technology

TSgt Marlon Luna

SSgt Jason Barbour

SSgt Russell Barnes

Electronic Systems Technology

SSgt Jeremy Follis

SrA Joshua Guidry

Instructor of Technology and Military Science

MSgt Todd Keener

MSgt Andrew Svendsen

TSgt Cameron Williams

TSgt Michael Jasinski

TSgt Jay Kissinger

TSgt Shawn Sage

TSgt Rahmann Whitley

TSgt Barbara Wood

SSgt Harry Ashcraft

SSgt Christopher August

SSgt Fred Frazier

SSgt Manuel Ortiz

Dental Assisting

MSgt Eric Hall

Mental Health Services

SSgt James Salas

Education and Training Management

MSgt Paula Valencia

TSgt Dawn Matera

Ecological Controls

SSgt Abraham Garcia

Information Management

MSgt Terry Brown

MSgt Paula Valencia

MSgt Mary Wells

Restaurant, Hotel and Fitness Management

MSgt Wilma Wallace

SrA Lisa Rushing

Financial Management

MSgt Bruce Gress

Avionic Systems Technology

MSgt Wilma Wallace

MSgt Jeffery Weller

TSgt Eliezer Sosa

SrA Aaron Nichols

SrA Jeremy Ellison

Child abuse prevention tips ...

Conflict resolution taught by example

When it comes to solving conflicts in nonaggressive ways, children need a role model.

Healthy conflict resolution can help them form friendships, cope with frustration and reduce the likelihood that they will have behavior problems – including aggression – later in their lives. By learning and using problem-solving strategies to deal with conflict, parents show children how to deal with conflict themselves.

In addition to teaching by example, parents can also directly teach children these skills, adapting them to the child's age and development.

Understanding aggression and how children express it can help parents as they teach problem-solving skills. Aggression is defined as a hostile action intended to cause harm to others.

When children are frustrated, they will display aggression differently according to their age. Infants and young children up to about 3 years old display instrumen-

tal aggression that is object-oriented. They want an object and will be angry and upset if they can't get it and keep it.

Older children from 3 to 8 years old will also display relational aggression that is person-oriented. This type of aggression can involve hurting another child physically or with words to gain dominance or revenge.

When teaching children nonaggressive ways to deal with frustration and solve conflicts, it is important to take into consideration their age and developmental stage, because brain development, life circumstances and environment can influence children's behaviors and responses.

- Teaching by example is the best approach for the youngest children.

- At about 3 years old, parents can begin teaching children simple skills, such as how to express how they feel, and some steps to making choices.



Courtesy photo

- At ages 4 to 5, children start to understand consequences of their acts and can think of more than one way to solve a problem.

- At ages 6 to 8, children can understand other's points of view, can use verbal communication, and begin to internalize moral rules for behaviors.

For more information, call the Family Advocacy Program at 283-7511.

(Courtesy of the Family Advocacy Office)



Do you have questions?

We have the answers!

*Call the
Straight Talk Center at
(877) 529-5540,
24-hours a day.*

Checkertail Salute

Airman 1st Class Fayzer Wooten



2nd Lt. William Powell

Airman Wooten receives the Checkertail Salute Warrior of the Week award from Col. Brian Dickerson, 325th Fighter Wing vice commander.

The Checkertail Clan salutes Airman Wooten who is a 95th Fighter Squadron aviation resource manager. She generated timely and accurate flying hour recaps, with more than 700 line items of F-15 Eagle training sortie inputs. She also scored 91 percent on her Career Development Course end-of-course exam. Airman Wooten has also volunteered time at the Women Eckerd's Facility.

Duty title: Aviation resource management

Time on station: One year, 10 months

Time in service: Two years, six months

Hometown: Ashtabula, Ohio

Hobbies: Church, softball, basketball, reading

Goals: Get a degree in business law or psychology

Favorite movie: "All About the Benjamins"

Favorite book: The Bible, "A Child Called It"

Favorite thing about Tyndall: The heat and beach

Pet peeves: People talking bad about others and lying

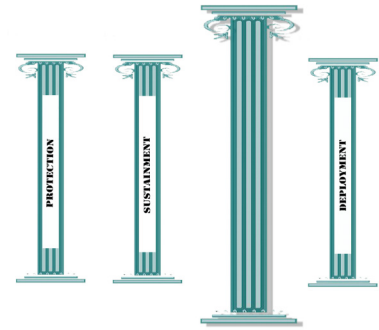
Proudest moment in the military: Graduating basic training

The Checkertail Salute is a 325th Fighter Wing commander program designed to recognize Tyndall's Warrior of the Week. Supervisors can nominate individuals via their squadron and group commanders. Award recipients receive a certificate, letter from the commander and a one-day pass.

The Gulf Defender is published for people like Airman Veronica Soto, 2nd Fighter Squadron life support technician.



FORCE TRAINING



Training Spotlight

Why did you choose to fly the F-15 Eagle, as opposed to any other aircraft?

“I chose to fly the F-15C because of its focus on the air-to-air mission.”



2ND LT. RYAN OWEN
2nd Fighter Squadron F-15 Eagle
B-Course student pilot

Student Focus

Training could mean difference between life, death

2ND LT. WILLIAM POWELL
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Before a student pilot even enters an F-15 Eagle for the first time here, he is already trained on what to do if he must quickly exit one.

“If student or instructor pilots have to eject, their survival depends on what they’ve learned from Life Support,” said Staff Sgt. Shera Erdman, 2nd Fighter Squadron Life Support technician.

The training begins soon after arriving here. Within the first few days, Basic Course students visit the Life Support section at their respective squadron to get fitted for their equipment, which includes a custom-fit helmet, harness, antigravity suit, combat edge vest and mask.

“We teach them how to pre-flight their gear on the combined aircrew system tester, which checks their communication and for air leaks before they step to the aircraft,” Sergeant Erdman said.

After receiving their equipment, the students head to Wing Life Support to learn how to exit an F-15 in an emergency and what to do if they have to “punch out.”

“The training discusses the procedures on how to egress an Eagle, and how to dangle in the harness after ejecting,” she said. “They also learn how to land in water or on land after ejecting, and what to do in case they encounter trees or power lines.”

According to Sergeant Erdman, the minimum rescue time to find and recover a downed pilot is three hours. Life Support members teach pilots how to survive alone in case the



2nd Lt. William Powell

Staff Sgt. Shera Erdman, 2nd Fighter Squadron Life Support technician, draws a mark on Capt. Scott Campbell's mask during a fit test. The fit test ensures pilots don't have any leaks in their masks during flight.

rescue time is longer than expected.

“The squadron Life Support sections give refresher courses in water and combat survival to instructor pilots, but students receive much longer, initial courses at the Wing Life Support section,” she continued. “We teach them the proper way to pop a flare, what’s in their survival kit and how to use the survival kit items while they are waiting to be rescued.”

Capt. Scott Campbell, 2nd FS B-Course student pilot, said the training and service provided by the Life Support members is also critical to pilot morale.

“Having trust in the life support gear is very important, especially for any type of egress like an ejection,” he said. “A pilot has to be confident that everything is going to work correctly and his training is going to be accurate to get him through any situation.”

And Sergeant Erdman said their mission is to ensure each pilot is confident and comfortable with his equipment and training before stepping to the aircraft.

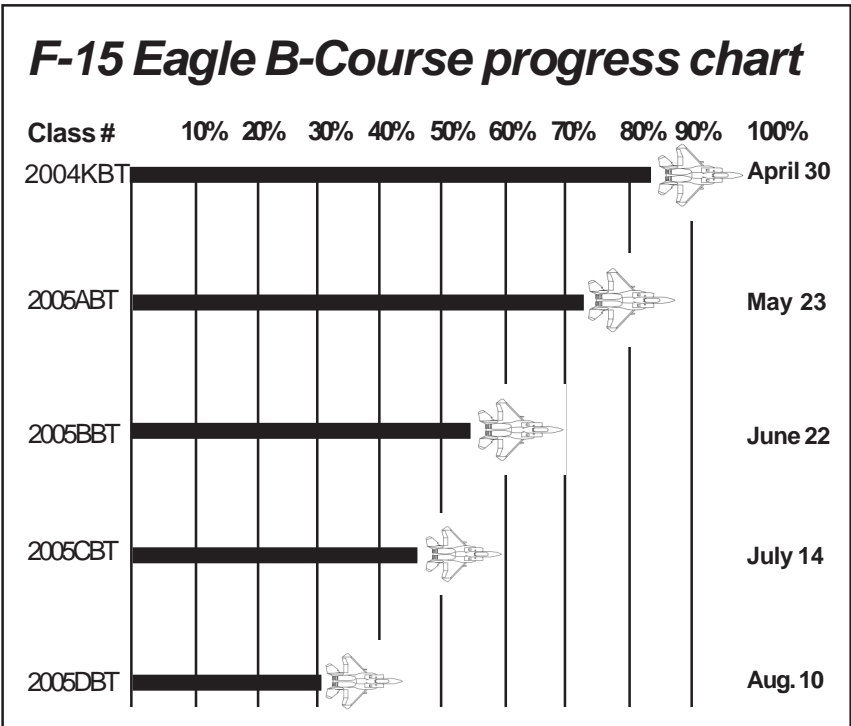
“That’s what we’re here for,” Sergeant Erdman said. “If the pilots aren’t comfortable, they won’t be fully focused on the mission.”



Don't push this button ...

Second Lts. Daniel Kim, left, and Bryan Pressley check out an E-3 Sentry model at the Air Control Squadron here. Both Air Battle Manger students graduated Wednesday with ABM Class 05010. Lieutenant Kim will be working on the airborne warning and control system at Kadena Air Base, Japan, and Lieutenant Pressley will be working with the same system at Tinker AFB, Okla.

Staff Sgt. Benjamin Rojek





Get a kick out of life

Intramural sports are great for health, recreation, teamwork

STAFF SGT. BENJAMIN ROJEK
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

“One man can be a crucial team,” said Basketball Hall of Famer Abdul-Jabbar, “but one man can’t win a team.”

For today’s Airmen, who are often deployed to the front lines, working cohesively as a team is vital. One of the best places to learn teamwork is on the field ... on the diamond.

Staff Sgt. James Thompson, 325th Support Squadron sports representative, feels that intramural sports help bring the entire squadron together.

“Our squadron has different interests. We don’t see each other that often,” Johnson said. “Playing in a sport brings one together in one area so we have the same interests.”

The spirit of sharing aside, the Airmen come together when there is a common goal.

“One way we contribute to the squadron is with the Commander’s Trophy,” Johnson said. The Tyndall Fitness Center director encourages participation by offering up to 100% of the squadron with the best team. The Commander’s Trophy is awarded to the team.

Staff Sgt. Benjamin Rojek



Staff Sgt. Benjamin Rojek

At the net, Derrick Hill, 325th Air Control Squadron, attempts to spike the ball over the 95th Fighter Squadron’s Joe Beahm at an intramural volleyball game here. Sports like volleyball, soccer and softball help Airmen learn about accomplishing goals as a team. Teamwork skills are especially vital in today’s expeditionary Air Force.

Annual intramural sports schedule

Racquetball	Jan – Feb
Darts	Jan – Mar
Volleyball	Feb – Apr
Tennis	Mar – Apr
Softball	Apr – Aug
Golf	May – Sep
Bowling	Aug – Mar
Flag football	Sep – Nov
Basketball	Nov – Mar
Soccer	Mar – May

All dates are subject to change. For more information on sports seasons or participation, people can contact their unit squadron sports representative, or call the Fitness Center at 283-2631.



Joshua Smith, 325th Air Control Squadron, is in the middle of a game. Intramural sports help Airmen learn about accomplishing goals as a team. Teamwork skills are especially vital in today’s expeditionary Air Force.

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...ommon goal: Win-
...to esprit de corps is
...ny,” said Lou South,
...ector. “It promotes
...o bragging rights as
...sports program.”
...y is awarded to the

squadron that earns the highest amount of points by the end of the intramural sports year. Points are earned for things such as participation and games won. Points are also subtracted during the year for forfeiting out of a sport.

The sports season, said Mr. South, starts with flag football in the fall and finishes up with golf, which lasts all summer.

Squadrons have many chances to earn points, since the Fitness Center offers 10 intramural programs, more than double what is required by the Air Force.

“The Air Force requires we offer four of the five core sports programs, and we offer all five,” said Mr. South. “The core sports are softball, basketball, volleyball, flag football and soccer. Those are team sports.”

But, he added, Tyndall also offers ‘lifetime sports programs,’ including golf, darts, tennis and bowling. Lifetime sports are those that can be played by one person.

“I hadn’t even heard of intramural darts until I got here,” said Sergeant Thompson. “With every sport, there is always someone interested. The Fitness Center does a good job with that.”

And there’s a reason intramural sports are put together by the Fitness Center.

“Anytime you are physically active, it is going to improve your physical fitness,” said Mr. South. “With a game like soccer, you’re constantly moving. It gets your cardio up and keeps you in shape.”

However, he added intramural sports are not the answer to physical fitness.

“If you want to pass the fitness test, you have to take care of your cardio workout and weight lifting,” he said. “Get a workout program.”

Dean Fazzio, Health and Wellness Center fitness program manager, couldn’t agree more.

“There are benefits to playing sports,” said Mr. Fazzio, “but first you must be regularly active. You can’t just play softball every five weeks.”

He said that for those already involved in a unit physical training program, the addition of sports two times a week would be ideal.

“Sports are great for calorie burning, weight management and even self-esteem,” said Mr. Fazzio.

And don’t forget the other thing that sports develop: Teamwork.

“The way a team plays as a whole determines its success,” said Baseball Hall-of-Famer Babe Ruth. “You may have the greatest bunch of individual stars in the world, but if they don’t play together, the club won’t be worth a dime.”



2nd Lt. William Powell

Ralph Moseley, 325th Maintenance Operations Support Squadron, tees off at a golf tournament recently. The Pelican Point Golf Course here not only hosts intramural matches, it also offers a variety of course organized tournaments such as the Couples Tournament during Valentine’s Day.



Airman 1st Class Sarah McDowell

...ith, left, and Derek Hojohn, right, from the 325th Comptroller Squadron team, dart toward Anthony ...ddle, from the 81st Test Squadron team, as he tries to receive a pass during an intramural flag football ...mural sports is a great way for units to build esprit de corps, as well as keep Airmen fit to fight.

A few simple rules ...

- Those eligible to participate in intramural sports include: Active duty military, Reserve or Guard who are assigned to Tyndall, DOD civilians, nonappropriated fund employees, dependents who are 18 years or older and retirees.
- Street shoes are not allowed on Fitness Center courts. Those people playing on the courts (the gym floor or the racquetball courts), must hand carry their shoes from outside the facility. Shoes with cleats are not permitted in the gym.
- Eye protection is mandatory when playing racquetball. Individuals may be suspended from the facility if proper eye protection is not worn.
- Food and beverages are restricted to the Fitness Center lobby. The only exception is water bottles, which may be used during the games.

(Courtesy of the Fitness Center)

Briefs

RAO volunteers

The Retiree Activities Office is seeking volunteers to assist with the various tasks associated with running the office. The RAO is an all-volunteer organization that provides assistance and information to Tyndall's retiree community on retiree-related issues. Those interested in volunteering should contact the office at 283-2737 or by e-mail at tyndall.RAO@tyndall.af.mil.

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Summer 2005 Term registration will be held from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. May 9-13 at the Tyndall Education Center in Room 48. Class dates are May 31 to Aug. 1. For more information, call 283-4557.

Gulf Coast Community College

The next Tyndall Center placement test will be held 1 p.m. Wednesday. Advanced payment of \$4 will guarantee a spot. Test results are immediate and students will be able to register for classes upon receiving the results. There will also be a book swap from 4-6 p.m. Monday and Tuesday in the commons area of the Education Center. In addition, GCCC will be holding Microsoft classes. The Excel Basic course is from 8-11 a.m. May 16-20. The cost for the course is \$70 and the cost for the books is \$22.50. For more information, call 283-4332.

Powerlifting competition

The Fitness Center plays host to a powerlifting competition beginning at 8:30 a.m. May 7 with weigh-ins. The competition starts at 10 a.m. Deadline for entry is today, and applications can be picked up at the Fitness Center. For more information, call 283-2631.

21st Annual SAME Golf Outing

The Society of American Military Engineers will hold a tournament 12:30 p.m. May 25 at Pelican Point Golf Course. The tournament provides scholarship opportunities to Bay County students. There will be many awards and prizes handed out for things such as the longest drive and closest to the pin. Competitors will even have a chance at \$10,000 and a brand new car. The tournament is open to the public. For more information, contact Capt. John Lantz at 283-6489, or by e-mail at john.lantz@tyndall.af.mil.

Softball tournament

The King of the Hill softball tournament takes place May 10-12. It is open to all base intramural teams. The tournament uses a double elimination format with American Softball Association rules. There will also be a home run and base running contest. The entry fee is \$125 per team, and teams must sign up by May 6. Payments are due May 9 at the



2nd Lt. William Powell

coaches meeting. To sign up or for more information, contact Eric North at 283-3887.

Powerful Parenting

The Tyndall Community Center offers Powerful Parenting for Moms and Pops of Tots each Wednesday from 9-10:30 a.m. Bring ideas on how to make this a fun, exciting and educational experience for all. For more information, contact Laurie Campbell at 286-6501 or e-mail znory7@yahoo.com.

Alabama Air National Guard

For those planning to apply for Palace Chase, Palace Front, or separating from active duty, the Alabama Air National Guard units in Montgomery, Ala., have many part-time vacancies. For more information, contact Master Sgt. Vonsetta Roberts at (334) 394-7191, DSN 358-9191, or 1-800-368-4481, or by e-mail at vonsetta.roberts@almon.ang.af.mil, or Staff Sgt. David Coram at (334) 394-7190, DSN 358-9190, or by e-mail at david.coram@almon.ang.mil.

Patient travel vouchers

Effective immediately, the 325th Medical Group Resource Management Office will process patient travel vouchers 7:45 a.m. to noon on a walk-in basis and afternoons by appointment only Monday-Friday. If you have any questions on this matter or would like to make an appointment, contact Staff Sgt. Eric Williams at 283-7736.

Hurricane briefings

There will be hurricane briefings conducted by the 325th Civil Engineer Readiness Flight in preparation for the upcoming hurricane season. All base personnel are strongly encouraged to attend and dependents are welcome. Briefings will be held at the Enlisted Club at

9 a.m. May 3, 10, 24 and 31. There will also be briefings at the 53rd Weapons Evaluation Group conference room at 2 p.m. May 5, 12 and 26. For more information and dates, call the Readiness Flight at 283-2010.

Tricare briefing

The 325th Medical Group staff at Tyndall AFB will present a Tricare health benefits briefing from 6-8:30 p.m. May 17 in the auditorium at the First Baptist Church located on 6th Street in Panama City. This briefing is designed to help military retirees, their eligible family members, active duty families and survivors to better understand their health benefits. For more information, contact the 325th Medical Group Tricare Operations office at 283-7331 or 283-7332.

Free pre-kindergarten screening

Bay District Schools and the Florida Diagnostic Learning Resources Systems/Panhandle Area Educational Consortium will sponsor free Pre-K screenings for 3- to 4-year-old children May 11. Children will be screened in the areas of speech and language, motor skills, school readiness skills, vision and hearing. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 872-4857.

Office closures

The 325th Civil Engineer Squadron will be closed for an official function beginning at noon May 6. For emergencies, please call customer service at 283-4949.

The 325th Contracting Squadron will close 11 a.m. May 6 for a squadron function. Normal hours will resume May 9. In case of an emergency please call 774-1151 or 774-1152.

Thrift Shop hours

Normal hours are 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Wednesday-Friday. Consignments are

Art to heart

Melissa Cornell, daughter of Master Sgt. Paul Cornell, 823rd REDHORSE Squadron/Det. 1, colors some of the remaining blank areas on the Month of the Military Child mural Tuesday at the Youth Center. Children and teens have been coloring the 12-foot-long mural all month, and it will be displayed at the Child Development Center after its completion this week.

9:30-11:30 a.m. Wednesday and Thursday. For more information, call 286-5888.

For Sale

Brand new 2004 Honda CBR F4i motorcycle, \$8,500. The price includes leather riding jacket, bike stand, helmet and racing gloves. For more information, call 890-0335 any time.

Chapel Schedule**Weekly Bible study**

The Bible study "Life Without Strife" meets from 6:30-8 p.m. every Tuesday night at the Spiritual Fitness building by Chapel Two, in Room 108.

Catholic services

Daily Mass, 11:30 a.m. Monday-Friday, Chapel Two
Reconciliation - before Saturday Mass or by appointment
Saturday Mass, 5 p.m., Chapel Two
Sunday Mass, 9:30 a.m., Chapel Two
Religious Education, 11 a.m., Bldg. 1476

Protestant services

Traditional worship service, 9:30 a.m., Chapel One
Religious education classes, 9:30-10:30 a.m., Bldg. 1476
Contemporary worship service, 11 a.m., Chapel Two
Wednesday Fellowship, 5 p.m., Chapel Two

Muslim services

A prayer room will be open for Dhuhr Prayer Monday-Thursday in the Spiritual Maintenance building near the flightline. There will also be Jumuah services at 12:30 p.m. the second and fourth Friday of each month.

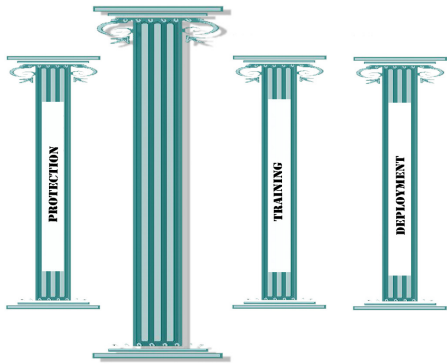


Lisa Norman

Burnin’ Barracuda

Doug Dean burns rubber in his 1973 Barracuda at the Show and Shine car show at the Enlisted Club here April 22. More than 200 people attended the annual car show, bringing and admiring new and vintage vehicles such as Harley-Davidson motorcycles, Corvettes and even a motorhome.

FORCE SUSTAINMENT



Hitch
6 p.m. Thursday

While helping his latest client woo the lady of his dreams, a professional “date doctor” (Will Smith) finds his old routine doesn’t quite work on the gossip columnist (Eva Mendez) with whom he’s smitten.

Man of the House
6 p.m. May 12

Texas Ranger Roland Sharp (Tommy Lee Jones) is assigned to protect the only witnesses to the murder of a key figure in the prosecution of a drug kingpin – a group of University of Texas cheerleaders. Sharp must now go undercover as an assistant cheerleading coach and move in with the young women. Also starring Cedric the Entertainer.

(All movie information courtesy of www.imdb.com. Used with permission.)

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Coming up ...

The Pacifier

6 p.m. May 19

.....

Intramural Sports Standings

Volleyball



Team	Win	Loss
AMXS	9	0
95 FS	7	2
ACS 1	8	3
MDG	7	3
AFCESA	6	4
MXS	6	4
CONR	6	5
COMM	3	7
RHS	3	7
SEADS	3	8
SVS	2	7
ACS 2	0	10

Soccer

Team	Win	Loss	Tie
ACS	8	0	1
OSS	7	1	1
CES	5	2	0
372 TRS	5	3	0
TEST	5	4	0
SFS	4	5	0
SEADS	3	5	0
COMM	2	7	0
MXS	1	6	0
83 FWS	0	7	0



Golf



Team	Points
SEADS	6
OSS	6
327nd TRS	6
CES	6
RHS	5.5
MSS	5.5
CONR1	5.5
MXS	4.5
AMXS	3.5
AFCESA	3.5
CS2	2.5
CS1	2.5
ACS	1.5
CONR2	0.5
53rd	0.5
MDG	0.5
83rd	0
SFS	0
1st FS	0
SVS	0

Vet Clinic to celebrate National Pet Week

STEVE RIDDLE
325th Services Squadron

National Pet Week begins Sunday, and the Tyndall Veterinarian Clinic will be holding two events to help celebrate.

“One of the events we’ll be having is a puppy basic training course,” explained Kimberly Williamson, Tyndall Vet Clinic operations clerk. “It’s basically a class to show owners the basics in puppy grooming and training, and to help foster good socialization skills among the puppies.”

The class is for puppies ages nine to 16 weeks old. Registration is free, and each puppy must have a recent vet examination and at least one vaccination.

The Vet Clinic is also now accepting entries for their Pet Photo Contest. The contest is free to enter, and the winner will receive a six-month supply of flea and tick medication, along with a bag of treats for their pet. The second and third place finishers will each receive a one-month supply of flea and tick medication, and a bag of treats.

“We’re looking for original, cute, and unique pet pictures,” Ms. Williamson said. “Dogs, cats, birds, ferrets – any pet you have, we’ll take. We like them all.”

Pictures can either be e-mailed to kimberly.williamson@tyndall.af.mil or brought to the



Four kittens, barely five weeks old, wait at the Tyndall Vet Clinic in hopes of finding a good home with a nice family. The staff there hope to find a home for them next week during National Pet Week.

clinic. Hard-copy photos must be 5” x 7”. One entry per pet will be accepted, and the winners will be named at noon May 6.

“We wanted to have these events to help promote responsible pet ownership,” she said.

For more information on Pet Month, contact the Tyndall Vet Clinic at 283-2434.



SVS gets ready for Fitness Month

STEVE RIDDLE
325th Services Squadron publicist

Throughout the Air Force, May is known as Fitness Month, and the 325th Services Squadron is making sure there will be plenty of activities for the men and women of Tyndall to enjoy.

“The Air Force has recognized May as being a month to emphasize fitness for decades,” said Lou South, director of the Tyndall Fitness Center. “For as long as I can remember, it’s been the month where we try to get people more involved in fitness programs.”

The Fitness Center will kick off Fitness Month with a 1.5-mile beach run 7 a.m. Monday. There

will be many other events throughout the month, including the Fourth Annual Muscle Beach Power Lifting Competition May 7 and the annual Open House 5K Fun Run/Walk in conjunction with this year’s Gulf Coast Salute Air Show May 14.

The Fitness Center will wrap up their Fitness Month activities with the annual Chiefs vs. Eagles softball game May 27.

“By having so many different events, and having them on different days of the month, we’re hoping that everyone who wants to will have a chance to participate in something,” explained 2nd Lt. Erin Fager, Fitness Center officer in charge.

Adding even more variety to the activities of Fitness Month, the Tyndall Officers Club and Enlisted Club are both hosting volleyball competitions May 6, 20 and 27, and the Outdoor Recreation will take bicycle enthusiasts to the Munson Hills Off-Road Bicycle Trail in the Apalachicola National Forest May 7.

Kids haven’t been left out of the fun, either. Children ages 7 to 14 will have a chance to showcase their baseball skills when they compete in a local Pitch, Hit and Run competition.

For more information on any May Fitness Month events, contact the respective facility or the Marketing Office at 283-4565.

DOD awards dental program contract

CAPT. SUSAN A. ROMANO
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The Department of Defense awarded the new Tricare Dental Program contract April 6 to United Concordia Companies Inc. of Harrisburg, PA.

The contract, with an estimated value of \$1.4 billion for the period of performance, includes an approximate 10-month base period for transition and five one-year option periods for dental services. The base period began April 6 and will continue through Jan. 31, 2006. Dental services will begin Feb. 1, 2006, and will end January 31, 2011, if all options are exercised.

UCCI will furnish worldwide, comprehensive dental coverage to

include preventive, diagnostic, restorative and maintenance services to all eligible uniformed services active duty family members, members of the Selected Reserve and Individual Ready Reserve and their eligible family members. The contract is a fixed-price premium-based contract.

“We will work closely with UCCI to maintain beneficiary and provider satisfaction while ensuring that quality and access standards continue to be met,” said Dr. William Winkenwerder, Jr., Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs.

The TDP is an affordable and portable program that makes it easy to maintain good dental health. It

is a cost-effective benefit that eligible beneficiaries cannot afford to do without. Eligible beneficiaries may elect to enroll as a single member or as a family. For those who are not currently enrolled, UCCI will continue to enroll new members.

Beneficiaries who enroll in the TDP will receive a new TDP card and benefit handbook prior to the new contract taking effect. TDP beneficiaries and providers will be sent regular updates on benefits and coverage.

“The 325th Medical Group strongly recommends that each active duty member ensure their eligible family members are enrolled in this program,” said Lt. Col.

Paula Corrigan, 325th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron commander. “Our dental and medical professionals will continue to have contact with family members who require emergency dental care and are not enrolled with UCCI.”

For more information about the TDP, beneficiaries may access the benefit handbook online at www.ucci.com or by calling toll-free 1-800-866-8499, 24 hours a day. Members residing outside the continental United States should call 1-888-418-0466. Representatives are available to assist members in English, German and Italian 24 hours a day, Monday through Friday.



Questions about career options?

Call Senior Master Sgt. Jeffrey Kahapea, 325th Fighter Wing career assistance advisor, for answers to retraining or special duty questions at 283-2222.

Happy anniversary!

Couple who met, fell in love while serving in military revisits Tyndall – 60 years later

AIRMAN 1ST CLASS SARAH McDOWELL
325th Fighter Wing public Affairs

He flew his last Army Air Corps mission on D-Day, flying with a B-17 crew that dropped 5,000 pounds of bombs on the beaches of Normandy

But the bombs had nothing on what Jerome Bishop spoke of as the highlight of his military career – it was Louise.

As the couple recounted pieces of their past during a base tour of Tyndall, their faces did not light up until they spoke about the days that led up to their marriage.

“I fell right in love with her just like in the movies,” Mr. Bishop said.

While he oriented new draftees at Tyndall, Mr. Bishop first noticed Louise working at the Base Exchange. Eager to get to close to her, he quickly took a job at the same news stand where she worked as a clerk. His plan worked.

“Then St. Valentine’s Day came and I asked Louise for a date,” he said. “We went to Panama City and had steak dinners for \$1 a piece.”

The two came from completely different backgrounds – Mr. Bishop is Jewish and from New York and Mrs. Bishop is Protestant and from Kansas. They have been happily married for 60 years.

The road that brought Mrs. Bishop

to Tyndall started in the Midwest, where she made bullets for the war effort.

“We made so many bullets we didn’t know where to put them,” she said.

The overflow ended her job at the factory, so she then traveled to an employment agency.

“There, I met two women with Women’s

Army Corps uniforms on – and I decided to join,” she said.

From there she journeyed to Tyndall. Although she later fell in love with him, her first impression of Mr. Bishop was a little different.

“I kind of liked him, but he was much brasher than I was,” she said.

Her impression of Mr. Bishop was confirmed as he actively pursued a future with her.

“About four weeks after our first date I grabbed her and kissed her and asked her to marry me,” Mr. Bishop said.

On March 28, 1945, they were married in Panama City.

Mr. Bishop entered the AAC as an A-20 mechanic, then saw combat in World War II as a turret-ball gunner,

flying 29 missions over Germany and earning a Distinguished Flying Cross for shooting down a German Me-106 during combat.

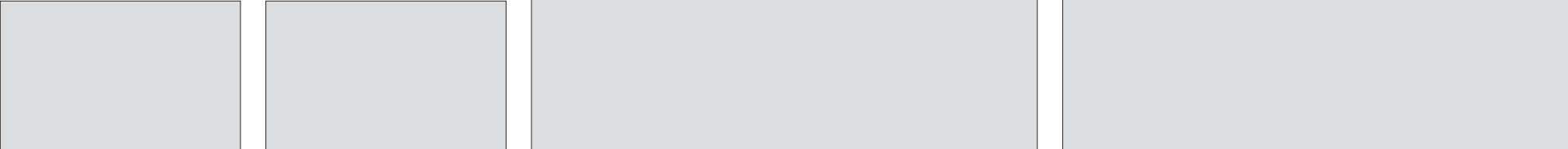
In 1946, he decided to leave the military and pursue living happily ever-after with his wife.

During their 60 years together, the Bishops have had ten children, seven grand children and four great-grand children. They have moved throughout the eastern seaboard of United States, and the couple now resides in Fort Lauderdale.

After touring Tyndall’s housing area, stables, bowling alley, Base Exchange, Commissary and flightline, Mr. and Mrs. Bishop left with their memories refreshed, and a new story to share about revisiting their past.



Jerome and Louise Bishop look at archived pictures from the mid-1940s when they were assigned here. The couple traveled from Fort Lauderdale to spend their 60th wedding anniversary reminiscing about the time they spent at Tyndall, where they first met. Inset: The newspaper clipping explained the details of the Distinguished Flying Cross awarded to Jerome Bishop for shooting down a German Me-106 during World War II. Also showing is his discharge document. Mr. Bishop logged 29 missions over Germany as a turret-ball gunner during the war.



Officials expand existing whistleblower protections

DONNA MILES

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Blowing the whistle on waste, fraud and abuse at work seems like the last thing workers would do if they wanted to keep their jobs and advance their careers.

But that is exactly what servicemembers and federal civilian employees are required by executive order to do, and officials at the Office of Inspector General have bolstered protections offered to ensure they do not suffer reprisals on the job as a result.

Federal laws protect so-called "whistleblowers" from adverse personnel actions they could feasibly suffer when reporting abuses within their organizations: getting fired, losing out on promotions or getting shuffled to lesser jobs. These laws also protect against less dramatic but equally career-damaging actions, from receiving bad evaluation reports or letters of counseling to getting temporarily suspended without pay.

New policies adopted by the Defense Department on Jan. 7 broaden those protections even further, said IG officials. Whistleblowers within the department are now protected from having their security clearances revoked or tampered with as a result, officials said.

The new provisions also offer first-time protections to civilians of DOD's intelligence community involved in whistleblowing activity. Previous protec-

tions for these employees were limited to reports made directly to Congress or reports involving violations of civil liberties.

Hollywood lionizes the lone employee who stands up to large corporations or bureaucracies to point out misdeeds or out-and-out crimes. Time magazine put three whistleblowers on its cover in 2002, heralding them as "persons of the year."

Yet despite federal protections, some people who report abuses within their organizations say they suffer reprisals as a result.

M. Jane Deese, director of the DOD Inspector General's military reprisal investigations office, said she receives hundreds of reports a year of these incidents. An while the vast majority of these claims turn out to be unsubstantiated or not covered under whistleblower-protection laws, as many as 100 a year do, she said.

The Inspector General's most recent Semiannual Report for Transmission to the Congress included three examples of substantiated whistleblower-reprisal cases between April 1 and Sept. 30, 2004.

In one case, an Airman in Utah said he received an unfavorable enlisted performance report after reporting misman-

agement by officers in his command to an inspector general. Following an investigation by Ms. Deese's office, corrective action was taken against the officers involved.

In another case, a Soldier in Hawaii reported that he was threatened with an Article 15 and involuntary separation after complaining to an inspector general about being tasked for a duty assignment. An Army investigation substantiated the complaint, and the first sergeant involved received corrective action.

A Sailor said she was issued a letter of instruction and downgraded fitness report in reprisal for complaining of discrimination to her chain of command and

Equal Opportunity Office, and in testimony to the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services. Ms. Deese's office investigated and determined that two officers had, in fact, reprised against the Sailor. Both officials involved retired from active duty.

Reprisals against civilian employees are somewhat harder to track, because most cases are referred to the independent Office of Special Counsel.

However, the DOD Inspector General's civilian reprisal investigations office investigates most of the highest-

profile cases, said Dan Meyer, the office's director. These cases involve civilian employees in the DOD intelligence community, participating in operations in Iraq or Afghanistan, associated with contractor fraud of more than \$1 million, or who are fired as a result of whistleblowing activity, he said.

While servicemembers, civilian employees and DOD contractors all receive whistleblower protections under the law, Mr. Meyer said the guidelines for what constitutes a whistleblower differ.

For example, servicemembers who report waste, fraud or abuse through their chains of command qualify as whistleblowers. However, civilians who report these occurrences to their immediate supervisors do not.

Mr. Meyer recommended that would-be whistleblowers consult with their inspectors general to learn about their rights and protections before taking action.

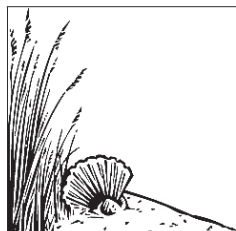
While nobody wants to have to blow the whistle on waste, fraud or abuse, and those who do often face a social stigma, Ms. Deese and Mr. Meyer said that whistleblowers are a vital part of the Defense Department's effort to monitor itself.

"You have to have people willing to come out and speak out," Ms. Deese said. "It's critical to the goal of maintaining accountability and integrity in the system."

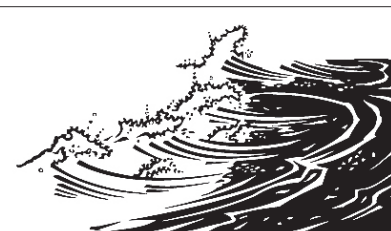


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Funshine NEWS



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MAY IS FITNESS MONTH



**Come out and get fit with
the Services Squadron!**

Monday - 1.5 Mile Beach Run

May 7 - Muscle Beach Power
Lifting Competition

May 7 - Bike St. Mark's Trail

May 9 - 10K

May 11 - Strive Demo

May 14 - Gulf Coast Salute 5K

May 20 - Squadron Challenge
Swim Meet

May 21 - MARATHON MANIA
1/2 Marathon
Family Fun Run
Cardiothon

May 21 - Freestyle Skateboarding
Class

May 23 - HAWC "Eating to be Fit"

May 27 - Chiefs vs. Eagles Softball

FRIDAY THE 13th!

**Dorm Outdoor Movie
The Ring 2**

Friday, May 13 at Dusk
Outside the Community Center

B.Y.O.B
(Bring Your Own Blanket or Lawnchair)



All ranks at the Tyndall Enlisted Club

Free Movie Night



**Thursday
Hitch**



**Rated PG-13
Movie 6 p.m.**

Most men have difficulty finding love because it's hard to be yourself. That's where Alex "Hitch" Hitchens comes in. Alex is a "date doctor" who claims to be able to find customers their perfect romantic match in three dates or less. Sara, meanwhile, is a gossip reporter for a daily tabloid who decides to write an expose on Hitch's condescending methods. However, Sara finds her professional life and personal life on a collision course as she finds herself falling for Alex while investigating his dubious claim. She also makes Hitch re-evaluate his game, and rethink love in the process.

Snack Bar items include

Pizza, hot dogs, chili dogs,
nachos, popcorn, candy, & soda.

Youth under age 16 must be accompanied
by an adult. Movies subject to availability.

283-4357

Community Center

☎ 283-2495

Pilates instructor

The cardio center is looking for an additional Pilates instructor. If you have the right qualifications, call 283-2495.

Leisure Travel

Looking for a great short vacation getaway? Check out a five-day Key West and Bahamas Cruise out of Jacksonville, Fla. Aug. 22. Two people can get an inside stateroom starting at \$761, or an oceanview stateroom starting at \$880.

Call Nancy at 283-2864 or stop by the Tyndall Community Center Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and book your summer getaway while fantastic military discount rates are still available. Also, there are many other cruise and vacation options for you to choose from.

Auto Detailer Needed

The Tyndall Community Center is looking for an auto detailer. For more information, contact the Community Center at 283-2495.

Pizza Pub in the Tyndall Community Center

NASCAR Race Sunday!

Aaron's 499

at the
**Talladega
Superspeedway**

Race begins at 11:30 a.m.

Races shown at the Pizza Pub.

Doors open 11 a.m.

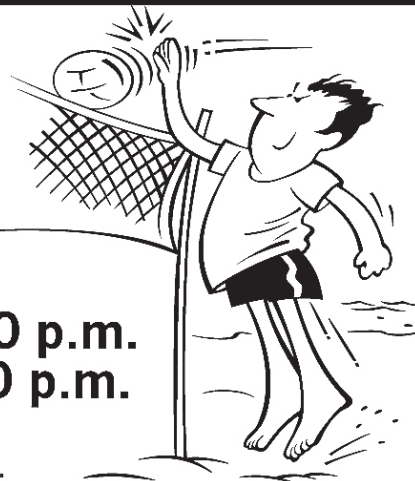
Prizes for participation will be given at each event. Must be a current club member to win.

283-3222 for details

Tyndall Clubs BEACH VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

**May 6, 20, 27 at 5:30 p.m.
Finals: June 3 at 5:30 p.m.**

Enter your four-person co-ed team to compete for prizes. This event is free for club members and \$15 per person for non-members. Sign up by Thursday by calling or emailing Susan at 3-1108 or susan.pummill@tyndall.af.mil.



All Ranks Membership Night

May 6 4 p.m.

★ **Free entry
for members
and their
spouse** ★

Prizes

Free Food

DJ Entertainment

For more information call
283-4357



Enlisted Club - The Zone

Outdoor Recreation

☎ 283-3199

FISHING CHARTERS

by Capt. Milton Tarpley

From Bonita Bay (max 4 people)

Full Day - \$275

Half Day - \$225

From Port St. Joe

Full Day - \$255

Half Day - \$205

Register and pay at Bonita Bay for both sites. Vendor will provide the boat, fishing gear, and guide.



For more information call
283-3199

● FROM SHOW PAGE 5

similar events for a host of vintage military 'warbird' aircraft.

Civilian performances will showcase a cast of some of the world's most talented aviators, including the international aerobatic champion Patty Wagstaff in her Extra 300S, along with high-energy aerobatic demos by Eric Beard in his "Russian Thunder" YAK 54 and Red Eagle Air Sports flying a two-ship demo. On the ground, Neal Darnell will rocket his way down the Tyndall runway in his blazing "Flash Fire" Jet Truck.

Also on the ground, the Tyndall flightline will be jam-packed with static displays of everything from the enormous C-5 Galaxy and C-17 Globemaster III airlifters to the mighty B-52 Stratofortress bomber and dozens of other military and civilian aircraft and related booths. The 325th Services Squadron will have plenty of fun activities and play areas for children inside Hangar 3, and there will be numerous concession stands selling lots of hot food, cold beverages and souvenirs throughout the flightline.

"All the folks supporting this year's open house have worked very hard," Major Renegar said, "and we're looking forward to



Courtesy Golden Knights

seeing our Tyndall Airmen, their families and our community neighbors come out to enjoy what promises to be a very memorable Gulf Coast Salute."

For more information about Gulf Coast Salute, log on to the official Web site at www.schultzairshows.com/tyndall2005, or to hear periodic recorded updates from the information line, call toll-free 877-529-5540.

● FROM GIFTS PAGE 6

the Air Force with transportation and augmenting additional security for them.

"I was reminded that ultimately, whatever branch you serve or what specific job you do day-to-day, your goal out here is to help the people of Iraq and maintain the peace as best we can," said 1st Lt. Paul Cancino, 407th ELRS. "Small acts like these might allow them to see U.S. and coalition forces in a positive light, and strengthen ties with the local population."

The volunteers visited a half dozen small Bedouin camps in all. The villagers' homes consist of tents and fabric, held together by rope, sticks and mud. There was no running water or electricity.

"I never knew just how bad it was over here," said Senior Airman Twyla Wood, 407th ELRS. "We have a song we sing at my hometown church, 'I am blessed.' Part of it says 'I have shoes for my feet, I have plenty to eat.' Just seeing those kids faces light up made me appreciate even more everything I had growing up and everything I have now."

The sentiments were echoed amongst all the volunteers involved with the Operation Reach Out program. According to volunteers, the program is one example of the many good things Americans are doing while deployed to Iraq.

"From today's experience I take away a finer appreciation for life and what God has blessed me with. We are, by far, a blessed and extremely fortunate nation," said Sergeant Coles.

In all, the volunteers provided gifts to more than 100 Bedouins. Each child seen was given at least one pair of shoes and a toy. There were many stuffed animals and soccer balls given out along with clothes, personal hygiene supplies and candy.

There are many people to thank for making Operation Reach Out a successful program, from the security forces Airmen who made sure the volunteers were protected to the Army personnel who provided vehicles and additional protection, said project organizers.

● FROM MONEY PAGE 7

that he might not have much longer to live and wanted to leave more money for his wife. CRSC personnel found out during the process of filling out his application, he had not waived a portion his retirement pay to receive VA disability compensation. This step is essential for veterans to receive CRSC, which is not payable as a supplement to retired military pay. They informed him of how to go about doing this and ordered his medical records for him.

"As soon as we are informed everything is complete, we will rush his information to the Navy CRSC team for immediate processing," said Ms. Schlichtig. "My father was Navy and my grandfather too so this request brought tears to my eyes. We'll try to help him support his application for as much money as he's eligible for, but then we do that for every person who calls here."

CRSC specifically addresses combat-related disabilities; however, retirees who developed disabilities due to training, simulated war exercises and other military specific duties may be eligible for this compensation, as

well. "We advise anyone with at least a 10-percent or greater VA disability rating to apply and let trained professionals determine their eligibility," said Ms. Garfield.

Applicants may apply at www.dior.whs.mil/forms/DD2860T.pdf on the Internet where they will also find lists of supporting documentation they may want to include in their packages. Completed applications and supporting documentation can be mailed to: United States Air Force, Disability Division (CRSC), 550 C Street West Suite 6, Randolph AFB TX 78150-4708.

To obtain copies of military records, contact the National Personnel Records Center, 9700 Page Avenue, St. Louis MO 63132-5100 or call (314) 801-0800.

Approved applicants may receive this compensation backdated to June, 2003 when the program began, depending on a variety of factors the trained staff will cover with each applicant.

For more information, call the Air Force Personnel Contact Center toll free at (800) 616-3775, commercial at (210) 565-1600 or DSN 665-1600.

